Discussion Board 1.1 – What is Node.js?

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What is Node.js? Node is "an asynchronous event-driven JavaScript runtime. Node.js is designed to build scalable network applications" (Copes, 2023). While Node is used to create apps in JavaScript, it should be noted that Node is actually written in C++ for being 'close to the metal' and very fast. The difference between Node and JavaScript is that Node is a runtime environment developed to run JavaScript for development and testing purposes. Node is an application, JavaScript is a language.

The advantage of Node is that it has packaged the V8 JavaScript Engine by Google for use in a server environment, as opposed to the browser environment. While the V8 Engine is one of the best and fastest engines used in a browser, being able to use this engine in a server environment allows developers to create full-stack applications strictly with JavaScript. This allows front-end developers to "write server-side code in addition to client-side code without the need to learn a completely different language" (Copes, 2023).

To get the most from Node, it uses the free npm (Node Package Manager) Registry to add packages needed during the development cycle. This registry is found on GitHub and offers over 800,000 different software packages (Schueter, 2023). This makes it the largest software registry in the world (W3S, 2023).

Why should npm be used? If you can think of it, it has probably already been created in the npm Registry, making npm a valuable resource to developers worldwide. Being able to import any of these packages of mission-specific design greatly reduces development time, as well as increasing options and efficiency.

References

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